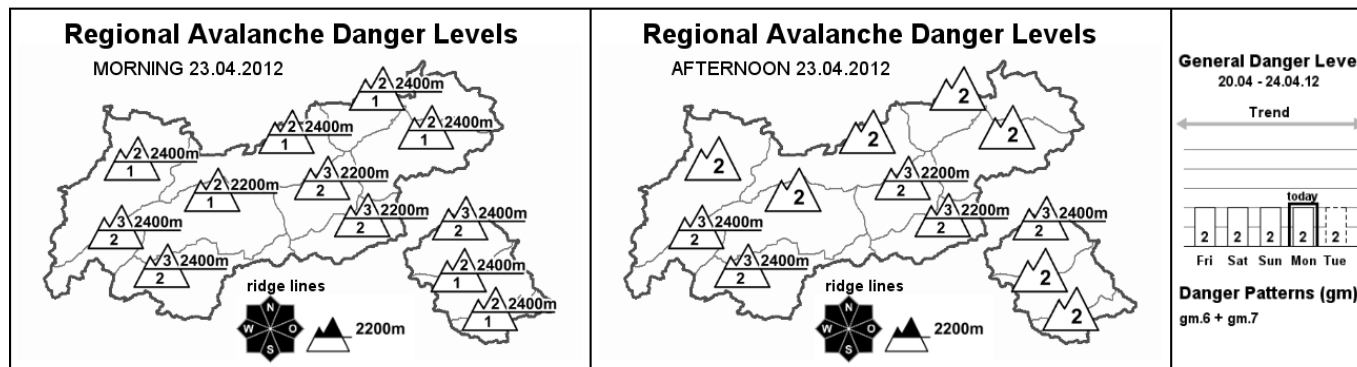


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 23.04.2012, at 07:30



Beware loosely packed avalanches in craggy terrain and fresh snowdrift

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger corresponds to altitude. The conditions along the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Tux Alps above approximately 2400 m are least favourable, where considerable danger prevails. Below 2400 m, the danger level is moderate. In the Zillertal and Tux Alps, the dividing line is at about 2200 m. Caution is urged particularly towards the recently formed snowdrift accumulations in very steep gullies and bowls and in very steep ridgeline areas, where avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading. In foehn-exposed lanes, snow will be transported today and form new danger zones on shady ridgeline slopes. The proneness to triggering and the frequency of avalanche prone locations tend to increase with ascending altitude. Equally, the likelihood of triggering will increase with the solar radiation and the daytime warming cycle. In isolated cases, loosely packed snow avalanches can be expected in craggy terrain. The situation in the far northern and far southern regions is more favourable.

SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 20 cm of snowfall along the Main Alpine Ridge, from place to place as much as 30 cm; in the Tux and Zillertal Alps as much as 50 cm. The wind was generally strong enough to transport the new fallen snow, leading to new snowdrift masses which above about 2200 m can be triggered at the borderline to the loosely packed fresh fallen snow of recent days. The old snowpack is moist at low and intermediate altitudes. In northern regions, a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads has often formed. At higher altitudes there is frequently a deeply embedded layer of depth hoar on steep, shady slopes where the snow is shallow along the Main Alpine Ridge. For the most part, however, the old snowpack is compact and stable.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: A low pressure system over the British Isles will move towards Germany by tomorrow, bringing moist air masses to the Alps. Today, a moderately moist southwesterly air current, tomorrow a cold front with precipitation which will be heavy in some places. On Wednesday, the perturbances will subside. Mountain weather today: changeable conditions north of the Main Alpine Ridge, with increasingly strong winds this afternoon. On and south of the Main Alpine Ridge, a little sunshine; as of midday, increasing snow showers. Tonight a cold front will bring snowfall from the west. Temperature at 2000 m: rising to zero degrees by this afternoon; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Light to moderate southwesterly winds, intensifying to strong or stormy by this evening.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Fresh snowdrift accumulations remain the major peril

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe